equity participation in the JV Company (JVC) will be as under:—

IOC	—Rs. 860 crore (26%)
KPC	—Rs. 860 crore (26%)
Public including 3rd parties	— Rs. 1588 crore (48%)

(b) and (c) The main activity of refineries is to process/refine crude oil and produce marketable petroleum products. The total capacity utilisation is more than 100% in the last three years and all refineries have earned profit before interest and tax.

(d) The productivity parameters *viz.* capacity utilisation and refinery throughput per employee indicate capacity utilisation of more than 100% on overall basis for the last 3 years (1995-96 to 1997-98) and throughput per employee increasing from 3047 per tonne in 1995-96 to 3405 per tonne in 1997-98.

(e) and (f) Distribution efficiency studies are carried out from time to time to indentify need for various infranstructural requirement including augmentation of refining capacities.

In accordance with such studies, Paradeep in Orissa was identified as a location for a refinery primarily to meet the deficit in Orissa, parts of Bihar, Eastern MP and Eastern UP. The Eastern India Refinery Project (EIRP) of IOC at Paradeep has been planned keeping in this view.

Welfare Schemes Undertaken by Oil Companies

2740. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of steps undertaken by ONGC, OIL and IOC, etc. for social and educational development of Assam during the preceding five years; and

(b) the details of allocations made for each of these steps during this period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) As part of their social obligations ONGC, OIL and IOC are incurring expenditure from year to year on social and educational devleopment in Assam. The details of allocations made for each of these steps are given in the Annexure. [*See* Appendix 186, Annexure No. 56]

Piped Gas in Gujarat

2741. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PETEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a plan under consideration of Government to supply piped gas to Ahmedabad, Gandhi Nagar and Surat in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when it will be implemented; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) No, Sir. In view of shortage of availability of natural gas, there is no such plan under consideration of the Government of India.

बिहार में पेट्रोलियम उत्पादों के संवितरण हेतु एजेंसियों का चयन

2742. **श्री रामदेव भंडारी:** क्या पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) बिहार में पेट्रोलियम पदार्थों पेट्रोल एवं गैस की एजेंसी के लिए सामान्य तथा अन्य श्रेणियों में किन-किन स्थानों के लिए आवेदन आमंत्रित किए गए हैं;

(ख) बिहार में साक्षात्कार के लिए कितने चयन बोर्डों की आवश्यकता है तथा कितने गठित किए जा चुके हैं और शेष के कब तक गठित किए जाने की संभावना है; और